

Message Text

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TAG: NATO, ECON, ETRD, ENRG, EFIN, EEWT, XH, US, CEMA, PFOR

SUBJECT: POLITICAL IMPLICATIOES OF RECENT ECONOMIC

DEVELOPMENTS IN USSR AND EASTERN EUROPE

REF: STATE 295289

1. AT DECEMBER 16 MEETING OF NATO POLITICAL COMMITTEE, US AND UK APPROVED PRESENT TEXT OF ECONADS REPORT ON POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF RECENT SOVIET EE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS AND INTRA-COMECON RELATIONS. FRG REP (CITRON) SUGGESTED MINOR AMENDMENTTS AS FOLLOWS:

-- PARA 2 SENTENCE 2 CHANGED TO READ: " THE COMPLEX PLAN WOULD BE STRENGTHENED OVER THE NEXT 5 YEARS AT THE POLICY LEVEL SHOULD THE USSR ATTAIN ITS LONG-SOUGHT AIM: SYNCHRONIZATION OF MOST CEMA COUNTRY DOMESTIC FIVE-YEAR PLANS WITH THAT OF THE USSR (THE TENTH FIVE YEAR PLANN, 1976-1980).

--PARA 3, CHANGE BEGINNING OF LAST SENTENCE TO READ:
"IN THE OSIVET VIEW, HOWEVER, PURELY BILATERAL CONTACTS BETWEEN THE EASTERN EUROPEAN NATIONS.."

--PARA 5, FIRST SENTENCE AMENDED TO READ:

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"THIS POLICY OF ECONOMIC INTEGRATION IS, HOWEVER, ENCONTER-
ING RSISTANCE FROM EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WHICH
WANT TO OBTAIN A GREATER DEGREE OF ECONOMIC INDE-
PENDENCE AND WHICH ARE ACCORDINGLY KEEN TO

CONCLUDE BILATERAL AGREEMENTS ON TRADE AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION WITH THE WEST."

--ADD NEW LAST SENTENCE TO FINAL SUB-PARA OF PARA 15 TO READ:

"AN UMBRELLA AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EC AND COMECON, PRESENTLY UNDERCONSIDERATION, MIGHT MAKE IT EASIER FOR EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES TO SIGN SUPPLEMENTARY AGREEMENTS WITH THE EC COMMISSION".

2 FRENCH REP (BEAUCHATAUD) SUGGESTED CHANGING FIRST SENTENCE OF FINAL SUB-PARAGRAPH OF PARAGRAPH 15 TO READ:

"TO ATTENUATE THE PROBLEMS AS DESCRIBED ABOVE WHICH THE EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ARE ENCOUNTERING AS A RESULT OF THEIR WEAKENED ECONOMIC POSITION WITH COMECON AND TO GIVE THEM MORE ROOM FOR MANEUVER, THE MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE EITHER INDIVIDUALLY, OR COLLECTIVELY FOR THOSE WHO BELONG TO THE EC, HAVE A NUMBER OF OPTIONS SUCH AS TRADE ACCORDS, AGREEMENTS ON INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION, EXPORT CREDITS (WITHIN THE LIMITS LAID DOWN BY THE CREDIT WORTHINESS OF THE VARIOUS BENEFICIARIES) AND THE PROMOTION OF JOINT ENTERPRISES IN THE EAST." FRENCH WOULD ALSO DELETE REFERENCE TO TREATY OF ROME IN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE.

3. PAPER WILL ALSO ADD, AT UK REP'S PERSONAL SUGGESTION, "ONE-SENTENCE REFERENCE TO POTENTIAL IMPACT OF CURRENT SOVIET HARVEST PROBLEMS ON SOVIET ECONOMY AND INTRA-CEMA RELATIONS.

4. POLADS WILL REVIEW PAPER, REVISED AS ABOVE, AT THEIR DECEMBER 23 MEETING. SINCE CHANGES ARE EITHER EDITORIAL OR REFLECT RELATIVELY MINOR CHANGES IN EMPHASIS, WE WOULD PROPOSE TO REITERATE US APPROVAL OF THE REPORT. REQUEST GUIDANCE FOR USE IN DECEMBER 23 POLADS.
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